



## News Release

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests &  
Thunder Basin National Grassland  
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### Colorado Roadless Rule Meeting May 25 in Steamboat Springs

(May 10, 2011, Steamboat Springs, COL) -- The public is invited to learn more about the proposed Colorado Roadless Rule and Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement at a public meeting May 25, from 6-8 p.m. at the Forest Service office, 925 Weiss Drive in Steamboat Springs.

The proposed rule reflects the interests of thousands of people across Colorado and the country who contributed to the development of the Colorado Roadless Rule since it was initiated by a Governor's task force in 2005.

The proposed Colorado Roadless Rule:

- Puts more than half a million acres into a higher category of protection than the 2001 Roadless Rule;
- Provides an updated inventory to protect high-quality backcountry areas with true roadless characteristics by removing substantially altered acres from the inventory and adding new acres containing a high level of roadless characteristics;
- Removes existing ski areas from the roadless inventory;
- Provides special protection for the headwaters of cutthroat trout streams;
- Provides flexibility for temporary road construction for underground coal activities, such as methane drainage wells, on 20,000 acres in the North Fork coal mining area; and
- Provides flexibility for temporary road construction for fuels treatments and ecosystem restoration to within one-half mile of communities.

This current public comment period is the final opportunity for public input to the proposed Colorado Roadless Rule and Revised DEIS. USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack will consider public input prior to making the decision on the final Colorado Roadless Rule and EIS, which is expected to be signed in late 2011.

The proposed Colorado Roadless Rule and Revised DEIS are available for review and comment online at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/coroadlessrule> until July 14, 2011. Also, visit the U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region web site for more information at: [www.fs.usda.gov/r2](http://www.fs.usda.gov/r2)

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